The Poor Man's Counſellor,

OR, THE

Married Man's GUIDE

If God hath bleſs'd thee with a careful Wife,
Take my Directions how to lead thy Life,
Tho' Riches thou doſt want, yet thou ſhalt find
Far greater Wealth in a contented Mind,
Thy honeſt Labour ſhall thy Charge maintain,
Being truly got, not by unlawful Gain.

To the Tune of, *The Poor Man's Comfort.*

COME, Friend, if thy Leiſure permit thee to ſtay,
I'll teach thee ſome Precepts the ſame to obey,
Now thou haſt betaken thy ſelf to a Wife,
How thou may'ſt live happy all Days of thy Life;
Then take my Directions, tho' thou art but poor,
I'll learn thee to keep the Wolf from the Door.

'Tis not all Men's Fortune great Riches to have,
And they that have little have moſt need to ſave
For Riches have Wings and away they will fly,
And leave them forſaken that once were ſo high,
A little is better with Peace and Content,
Than Wealth in abundance in Miſ[illegible]ent.

The Wealth of the World doth too many bewitch,
And they are to blame that make haſte to be rich,
For Goods ill gotten like Snow-Balls will waſte,
And he that was rich will be poor at the laſt;
Therefore be content with a lowly Degree,
And God will provide in due time, you ſhall ſee.

If thou haſt a Wife that is loving and kind,
Great Comfort in her at all times thou wilt find;
Whatever betide thee ſhe will bear a Share,
And help to adviſe thee in Woe or Welfare,
Then ſtrive not her Patience at all to provoke,
But freely ſubmit to drain both one Yoke.

A Wife that is froward I do not commend,
What thou doſt take Pains for ſhe'll laviſhly ſpend,
And do what thou canſt for to humour her ſtill,
She'll hold in ſcorn if ſhe want of her Will,
Make much of a Wife that is loving and chaſte,
For ſhe will be ſaving and fearful to waſte.

Each Morning when thou doſt thy Labour begin,
Have God in thy Mind, 'twill keep thee from Sin,
A Penny hard earned, ſince it is thy Lot,
Will do thee more good than a Pound that's ill got.
Then labour to thrive by the Sweat of thy Brows,
For that's the beſt way all honeſt Men knows.

If God give a Bleſſing that Children you have,
The more you muſt labour in time for to ſave,
And do not you murmur and count them a Charge,
The better you'll thrive, and your Stock will enlarge,
'Twill be a great Comfort thy Children to ſee,
If that they obedient and dutiful be.

Let no Man intice thee thy Money to waſte,
Be careful to ſpare and lay up what thou haſt,
Whoever ſhall ask thee, he is not thy Friend,
To go to the Ale-houſe thy Money to ſpend,
Avoid ſuch bad Courſes as bring Men to want,
And thou ſhalt have plenty when others have ſcant.

Lewd Houſes and Gaming be ſure that you ſhun,
There's many frequent them and ſo are undone;
By ſuch bad Companions a *Man* that's miſled,
May quickly be brought to a morſel of Bread;
A Cup of good Liquor at home with thy Wife,
Will cheer up your Hearts, and prevent further Strife.

Be courteous and kind to thy Neighbours about,
And then they'll love thee thou need not to doubt;
Avoid all Contention with Strife and Debate,
For that will procure thee all honeſt *Men*'s Hate.
Be civil to all *Men* as they are to thee,
Then kindly reſpected thou ſurely ſhalt be.

If Times do prove hard, and money be ſcant,
Then labour for little before you do want,
And thankfully take whatſoever God ſends,
As Times do grow better it will make amends.
A Dinner of Herbs with Content ſerves as well
As all the rich Dainties which far doth excel.

When thou for thy Labour ſome money haſt got,
Be ſure do not ſpend it in toſſing the Pot,
make haſte to thy Wife and Children ſmall,
And that will ſupply when they for Bread do call.
'Twould be a great Grief to thee whilſt thou doſt live,
To hear thy Babes cry and have nothing to give.

Whatever Affliction befall thee or thine,
Yet do not thou murmur or ſeem to repine,
For God that hath given thee means to ſubſiſt,
Can take it away whenſoever he liſt:
Therefore be contented whatever betide,
Submit with all Patience and God will provide.

Take care to remember what here I have told,
And value it dearer than Silver or Gold,
When thou art inclined to wander aſtray,
Perhaps it might bring thee into the right way,
And by thy Example all others may ſee
'Tis good to be careful and live honeſtly.

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